

## LOCAL ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES.

Members of the New York Entomological Society and all others, are solicited to contribute to this column, their rare captures, local lists and other items of interest relating to the insect fauna of New York city and vicinity.

EASTERN VARIETIES OF CICINDELA  
SCUTELLARIS.

FRANK HOLMES JOHNSON.

*C. rugifrons* and *C. modesta*, and with them the immaculate varieties, *C. unicolor* and *C. nigrior*, occur on Long Island to the south of Woodhaven. *C. unicolor* is found abundantly in Florida, while *C. rugifrons* is not reported so far south, but this is the first recorded instance of the former variety occurring in the Middle States. I have taken ten of *C. unicolor* to about two hundred of *C. rugifrons*, and three of *C. nigrior* to about ninety of *C. modesta*. Almost every gradation occurs in the color and markings of the Long Island specimens. The most highly marked specimens of *C. rugifrons* and *C. modesta* have on the margin a post-humeral dot, a medial triangular spot and an apical lunule. As we approach *C. unicolor* and *C. nigrior* the humeral dot disappears, the medial becomes small, orbicular or crescent-shaped, and the apical lunule becomes two separate spots (the markings now resemble those of *C. sexguttata*). The medial and apical dots as they grow smaller become separated from the margin, and finally disappear, first the medial, and then the apical dots. The ground color in *C. rugifrons* varies from blue to green, in one of my specimens it is brassy-green; two specimens exhibit a color which is neither black nor green, but may be described as intermediate between the green of *C. rugifrons*, the black of *C. modesta*, and the purple brown of *C. Lecontei*. *C. modesta* seems to vary less in markings and color than *C. rugifrons*.

May 19th, 1894, at Curtis Bay, Md. (near Baltimore), I found a ♂ of *C. modesta* and a ♀ of *C. rugifrons* in coitu. Nothing could better demonstrate the intimate relations of the two varieties.

The greater variation occurs in the fall brood, which, on Long Island, appears before September first, and lasts to beyond the middle of the month. The spring brood is less numerous; it

appears about June first, and I have taken *C. modesta* of this brood as late as July fourth. At Curtis Bay, Md., *C. rugifrons* appeared as early as March twenty-second. My last specimens of this brood were taken May nineteenth, when it was less plentiful than in April. When I visited the place again on June ninth, I could find no trace of either variety.

At the Maryland locality *C. modesta* greatly predominates, while on Long Island I have taken more of *C. rugifrons* than of the black variety. Mr. Beutenmüller informs me that, on Staten Island, *C. modesta* occurs alone, and is not subject to much variation.

These varieties seem to prefer sandy ground, where the grass and weeds are sparse, but do not frequent bare sand hills. They fly swiftly, and are rather difficult to catch, especially *C. modesta*, which is inconspicuous by reason of its dark color.

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### NOTES ON BRYAXIS ABDOMINALIS *Aubé*.

By CHARLES W. LENG.

This beetle lives on Staten Island under boards, chips etc. cast upon the borders of the salt meadow by tides of unusual height. It is abundant in March and April and occurs also as early as February and as late as May; but the females always outnumber the males. The latter are distinguished by the sculptured dorsal segments.

I found this beetle first about three years ago under bits of bark lying on the banks of the salt meadow creek which runs beside the railroad trestle west of Arlington station.—The operations of the railroad company have deepened and elongated a branch of the creek and thereby thrown upon its banks much soil, which lies high and dry above the surrounding moist salt meadow, and affords a lodgement to the bits of refuse and a consequent shelter to the beetles. — While this locality still remains the best, further search has led to the discovery of the species at several other points.

It is always accompanied by two other species *Rhyphobius marinus* and *Scydmaenus salinator* (?).